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March 1, 1960

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN DCI AND SENATOR
STUART SYMINGTON, MISSOURI.

Senator Symington called the Director and after preliminary greetings, the Senator said he wished to emphasize this point to the Director -- that never had he at any time questioned any information or suggested that there was any "monkey business" by the CIA.

He said the trouble lies in the handling of this CIA information by the people who receive it. He referred to a statement made on a telecast by the Secretary of the Air Force two or three weeks ago, which he said adjusted the picture to a great extent and produced "no missile gap." He said he would send this to the Director under personal cover.

He stated that if no information was given out at all, that would suit him fine, but that people insisted on talking and the information was not always accurate, to say the least. Senator Symington referred to Secretary McElroy's statement of a year ago, which he thought was very good; he then mentioned Secretary Gates' statement of this year, with which he had not agreed. He stated that he and Mr. Dulles had had honest differences of opinion but that never at any time had he questioned Mr. Dulles' or the Agency's honesty and integrity. He said that he didn't always agree with the figures given or the facts presented, but that when he didn't he so stated; he also referred to the letter he had written to the President some time ago, of which he sent a copy to Mr. Dulles.

The Senator laughingly said that some day when he and Mr. Dulles were old and gray, they could talk of these differences, and the Director said he would be old and gray long before the Senator. This the Senator contested. The Senator repeated that he thinks it's a great Agency and getting better all the time.

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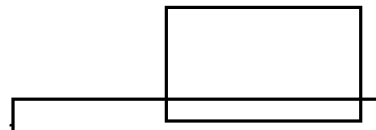
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Senator Symington stated that he didn't know why some people think they can sell the budget by bringing in the missile question, etc. He said Mr. Stans had just issued a statement that we are ahead in the space age, and quoted the statement for Mr. Dulles. He also read a statement recently made by Keith Glennan, and a statement by Dr. Werner Von Braun. He said "I don't know why the Director of the Bureau of the Budget is an authority on this matter."

Senator Symington said that he had sometimes quoted a statement the Director had made in a New Orleans speech last April, which he thought made a lot of sense (re economic race with Russia). He asked the Director to bear with him during this period and repeated that he thought the Director was wholly honest.

The Senator said that he continued to grapple with this problem because he had the welfare of the country at heart, and was mindful of his children's and grandchildren's future. He said the picture really worries him a lot; that he thought what's past should be forgotten and that we should do what's right now. He then quoted from Emmet Hughes' book re the present position of the United States vis-a-vis the USSR.

Mr. Dulles stated that we never claim perfection, but that we state the facts as we see them. He said he understood the spirit of the Senator's call and thanked him; he had never in any way contested the Senator's integrity in the position he took. The Senator thanked Mr. Dulles also and the conversation ended.



Secretary to the Director

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Remarks:

Howie:

The boss would like to speak to you
about the attached at an early opportunity.

JSE

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